



## Canton's Official Publication

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with Audit

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The Green Issue

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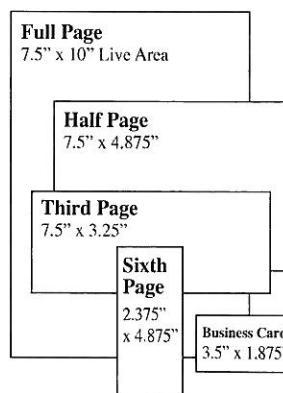


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## Dear Residents,

As you can probably tell from this issue's cover, the City of Canton is committed to taking a much more aggressive role on issues of sustainability and environmental conservation.

By taking this opportunity to inform readers about a few of our many "green" efforts, we hope to inspire residents who want to make the right choices but don't always know how.

Whether it's participating in our brand-new curbside recycling program or simply buying your produce from local suppliers, there are countless ways to reduce your "carbon footprint" each and every day.

I challenge all CQ™ readers to think of ways that they can improve our community by making decisions that will help preserve our environment for years to come.

We have a responsibility to our children – and our children's children – to begin fixing what can still be fixed before it's too late. I hope you will join us as we start making plans for the sustainable future of our city!

Warmest regards,

*Wm. J. Healy II*

William J. Healy II  
Mayor

## About CMW

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## Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable Canton

For several years, the staff at the Canton City Engineering Department have been working hard to implement projects which help create a more sustainable Canton. These efforts focus around several key areas, such as energy usage, traffic control and urban forestry.

Improvements in these areas have already made a significant impact on Canton's future. For instance, the installation of light-emitting diode (LED) traffic signals is already saving taxpayers thousands of dollars each month in electricity costs. The longer lasting LED's also save the city's resources by reducing replacement costs.

Something you may have also noticed is that there are new LED street lights in place on Tuscarawas Street. This cutting-edge technology saves electricity, reduces light pollution,

lowers maintenance costs and improves the safety, security and appearance of our city's roadways.

Another energy-saving technology that we are experimenting with is called "hot-in-place" asphalt recycling. This process rejuvenates the existing asphalt and can be up to 40% less expensive than traditional asphalt repair methods. This practice allows us to stretch our paving dollars while helping the environment in the process.

Traffic control within the city is another area in which we have made significant improvements. We have already installed and will continue to install traffic signal equipment that better coordinates traffic flow. This equipment reduces congestion and accidents - improving access to our city while reducing harmful engine exhaust.

Taking a trip off-road in Canton is now easier than ever due to some of the projects we have completed with

our partners at the Canton City Parks Commission and the Stark County Park District. With their help, we have planned or renovated hiking and biking trails throughout many parks within city limits - providing residents with not only new opportunities for recreation and exercise, but also an alternative to those who want to avoid the pain at the pump.

As always, I am happy to serve Canton residents as your City Engineer. If you have any questions or suggestions for ways we can better improve our city through environmentally-friendly projects, don't hesitate to give me a call. And remember...drive safely!

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## THE RUNOFF RUNDOWN

by Chris Barnes P.E., Assistant Canton City Engineer

### Keeping Canton green with proper water practices

Many cities like Canton are looking for ways to ensure that the quality of their streams, lakes and other bodies of water is protected from the negative impacts of development and urbanization.

Traditional development practices typically cover large areas of ground with impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways and buildings. Once such development occurs, rainwater can no longer seep into the ground, and must be directed off-site at levels which are much higher than would normally occur in nature. The powerful force of this runoff can greatly erode stream beds, causing large quantities of sediment and pollutants to enter into larger bodies of water.

A set of techniques collectively referred to as "green infrastructure" attempts

to utilize, enhance and/or mimic the natural processes of infiltration, evapotranspiration (the process of transferring moisture from the Earth to the atmosphere through the evaporation of water from rivers, lakes, oceans and plants), while re-using as much water as possible to prevent runoff.

Examples of green infrastructure plans currently in use include green roofing technologies, trees and/or tree boxes, rain gardens, pocket wetlands, soak planters, permeable pavements and the protection of our floodplains.

Green infrastructure can be used almost anywhere that soil and vegetation can be worked into the landscape. This can also include the use of rain barrels and cisterns to capture and reuse rainwater for watering plants and yards, which

can promote the cleansing and recharging of our local groundwater and surface water supplies.

The combined efforts of green infrastructure on individual sites results in less demand on Canton's storm sewers and cleaner water in places like the Nimishillen Creek. Green technologies also offer an excellent way to satisfy certain requirements of the City's NPDES Phase II Storm Water Program, which we are required to obey by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

As the City of Canton moves closer toward a more sustainable infrastructure, green technologies will definitely begin to play an even greater role.

